

called a coalition of activists together to plan the Poor People's campaign, and he held that meeting at Paschal's. The restaurant James and his brother founded played a major role in the Civil Rights Movement.

James Paschal was a wonderful man, a very quiet man. He was very businesslike. He was always concerned that we were comfortable and checked often to make sure the food and service were to our liking. He would ask, "Is everything all right, sir? How are you doing, sir?" He was very polite and spoke to us with dignity and respect. He was a true gentleman.

There was something so stable, so dependable, so real about James Paschal. His very personality, his very being was as solid as a rock. He was very supportive of the Movement in his own quiet, deliberate way. Sometimes, when we were having a major crisis, James Paschal might decide to host the meeting—give us our meals on the house—to help facilitate our planning and action. After Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral, many of us went to eat at Paschal's. It was like a home away from home.

We were more than lucky and very blessed that a man named James Paschal came our way. He made a lasting contribution to the free exercise of civil rights in America, not just for African Americans, but all Americans. He will be deeply missed.

#### TRIBUTE TO GOV. LAWTON MAINO

##### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and honor the life and legacy of Governor Lawton Mainor Chiles, Jr., on the 10th anniversary of his death. Throughout his 40 years of public service, Governor Chiles was committed to the betterment of Florida's children and families, as well as healthcare for all. As he stated in his 1997 State of the State Address, "To be a successful State, we must nurture successful children."

Governor Chiles' political career, which began in 1958 with his election to the Florida House of Representatives, was proven to be successful when he would continue to have the distinction of never losing an election. Governor Chiles was elected to the United States Senate in 1970 for the term commencing January 3, 1971, and was reelected in 1976 and again in 1982. He served as chairman of the Senate Budget Committee during the Reagan years, as well as chairman of the Special Committee on Aging and the Committee on the Budget. During his 1970 U.S. Senate campaign, Chiles became known as "Walkin' Lawton" after a 91-day walk across Florida from Pensacola to Key West.

His 1,003 mile walk across Florida not only displayed his utmost devotion to his home State, but his dedication to Medicaid reform initiatives such as the Women, Infants and Children, WIC, food program and increased funding for prenatal care and childhood immunizations while serving his three terms in the U.S. Senate proved that he was truly a man of the people.

In 1990, Governor Chiles was elected the 41st Governor of Florida. He was the first

Democratic governor in State history to have a Republican-controlled legislature. A fourth generation Floridian, Chiles continued to advocate health coverage for the uninsured in Florida, the promotion of adoption, raising standards for education, and fighting back against big tobacco. Additionally, he fought for the creation of regional healthcare alliances throughout the State. The alliances allowed small businesses to pool their healthcare dollars and broaden coverage while saving money. He also created the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Florida Healthy Start program.

The Governor and First Lady Rhea Chiles have four children: Tandy Chiles Barrett, Lawton (Bud) Chiles III, Ed Chiles and Rhea Chiles.

On this 10th anniversary of Governor Chiles' passing, let us remember him for his outstanding public service, his commitment to children and families, his dedication to his State and country, and his contributions to our Nation's history. Governor Chiles once said, "I didn't come to stay. I came to make a difference." He truly made a difference, and this proves to be remarkably consistent and in tune with his original vision.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MAURICE WRIGHT, M.D.

##### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Dr. Maurice Wright. Dr. Wright is the chief of the Emergency Department and president of the Medical Board at the Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center. A graduate of Fordham University and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, he did his medical training at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital from 1987 to 1990, after which he continued to work in the Emergency Department as an attending and later as the assistant director until 1997.

Dr. Wright joined the Woodhull Staff on April 1997 as the associate director of the Emergency Department and was promoted to chief of the Emergency Department in 1998. In addition, he has held several academic appointments, including assistant clinical professor of medicine at Columbia University and Medical Director of the Harlem CUNY Physician Assistant Program at the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Sciences. He is also a member of several professional organizations, including the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), The American College of Physicians (ACP), the National Association of Public Hospitals Health System (NAPHHS), and is also a graduate of the Physician Leadership Institute of the NAPHHS '03.

As a visionary leader, he strives to foster teamwork and inspire excellence. While managing a high volume emergency department, he has achieved a high standard of care that is responsive to community needs and concerns. Among his accomplishments at Woodhull, Dr. Wright embarked on a continuous clinical performance improvement program with outstanding results in cardiac, asthma and abdominal pain care among others. This vigorous program is supported by evidence-based practice guidelines and frequent

emergency medicine conferences. He was recently honored by the New York State Physician Assistant Society as its Physician of the Year for his clinical teaching and leadership.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Maurice Wright for his extraordinary accomplishments at the Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Maurice Wright.

#### 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

##### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to urge all governments to uphold the principles established in the declaration. Although 48 countries committed to promoting and protecting the rights of all human beings, human rights violations continue to occur around the world, especially in Vietnam.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, I am extremely concerned that despite Vietnam's many pledges to respect international norms, the Government of Vietnam continues to arrest and imprison individuals for peacefully exercising their freedom of speech and the right to assemble.

Today, I and several colleagues sent a letter to the Prime Minister of Vietnam advocating for the release of Pham Thanh Ngien and Nguyen Hoang Hai, two Vietnamese democracy activists who are currently being detained for peacefully exercising their freedom of speech and right to assemble. The letter also strongly urges the government to recommit itself to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and recognize that all persons are born with fundamental rights and that it is our collective responsibility to uphold those rights.

We all have a responsibility to not only stand up for freedom but to protect those who are denied freedoms and human rights. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing today as Human Rights Day, and stand up for the rights of not only Pham Thanh Ngien and Nguyen Hoang Hai, but all those who are denied their rights as a human beings.

#### TRIBUTE TO FRANK NELSON

##### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Frank Nelson is one of these individuals.

Frank Nelson has been a Realtor in the Corona area for 17 years. He is the current

Board President for the Inland Gateway Association of Realtors and he also served as President in 1998. Frank has served the Realtors as the Federal Political Coordinator and State Director for 14 years, and is the 14th district Vice President.

Frank has also served as Chairman of Land Use and Vice Chairman of Property Management and Land Use for the California Association of Realtors. He is a member of Federal Issues, Local Government Relations, and served on a special task force for Private Transfer Tax and presently is serving on the Department of Real Estates for rewriting questions for the California Department of Real Estate license exam.

I also have a personal connection with Frank. He lived across the street from my mother, Marsha, and would often look in on her while I was away. Frank epitomized a good neighbor who was always there to lend a helping hand.

Frank's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. I am proud to call Frank a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as his term ends as the Inland Gateway Association of Realtors Board President.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DANIEL LEAL, M.D.

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Dr. Daniel Leal. Originally from Texas, Dr. Leal would describe himself as a Community Psychiatrist. Educated in Texas, Dr. Leal completed his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy at the University of Texas, graduating second in his class. He matriculated at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, receiving his medical degree in 1989.

Dr. Leal pursued his internship and residency at the Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. His training at an inner city hospital fostered his life long interest in outreach to disenfranchised populations such as the mentally ill, the homeless, and the substance abusing population. His last academic training stop was as a fellow in Addiction Psychiatry at NYU-Bellevue. It was here that he studied and published on the effects of chronic homelessness for the mentally ill.

Dr. Leal has continued his advocacy for these individuals as Medical Director for the Washton Institute and as a consultant to Pathways to Housing. He frequently speaks to consumer advocacy groups such as the Alliance for the Mentally Ill and has instructed at the New School for Social Research in Manhattan.

Dr. Leal began working at Woodhull Medical Center in 2000 and feels he has found a supportive and enthusiastic work environment. "Working in emergency psychiatry, I feel it is imperative that I convey to a patient that they will be treated in a humane and respectful manner. The emergency room is often the first contact a patient or their family has with the mental health system. How we respond will often impact the course and outcome of their mental illness."

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Daniel Leal for his extraordinary accomplishments for mental health in New York City.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Daniel Leal.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. MOUSTAPHA DIABY

#### HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this communication is forwarded on behalf of the constituents of Congressional District Three and myself as we pay tribute to the life of Dr. Moustapha Diaby. We are all saddened by the loss of his presence in this life yet joyful that he has gone to be with his Heavenly Father.

Dr. Moustapha Diaby, a great humanitarian and family man, passed away on November 29th. Dr. Diaby served as the religious guide and President of the African Islamic Institution Presidium, and was a leading candidate for President of the Ivory Coast in elections which were to be scheduled later next year.

Dr. Diaby was a Member of the Health Ministry of the Ivory Coast from 1981–1983 under then President Houphouet-Boigny, and was also a former counsel to both President Houphouet-Boigny and President Bedie. He was extremely well versed in Ivorian politics, and maintained close relations with members of a wide range of Ivorian political parties. A strong subscriber to the philosophy of former President Boigny, the founder of Ivorian independence from France, Dr. Diaby, like President Houphouet-Boigny, was an ardent proponent of tolerance and inclusion of all ethnic groups in the Ivory Coast, as well as the ideas of shared governance and the equitable distribution of resources throughout the country, irrespective of region or religious affiliation.

During the political crisis in the Ivory Coast, wherein a Dutch multinational company, Trafigura, unloaded nearly 600 tons of petrochemical waste in the commercial capital, Abidjan (leading nearly 100,000 Ivorians to seek medical attention), Dr. Diaby utilized his international contacts and did everything within his power to assist those suffering the fallout of the illegal toxic dumping. His activities included working closely with the Congressional Black Caucus of the United States Congress, the U.S. Center for Disease Control, and numerous other international organizations, in an attempt to bring immediate relief to the victims. This included the donations of medical supplies and food to the people of the Ivory Coast suffering from the tragic incident. Dr. Diaby was also the recipient of the "Peter the Great International Award" for merits and peace in 2005 in Dubai, U.A.E., for his efforts in attempting to bring peace to the Ivory Coast.

Dr. Diaby was also an extremely successful businessman, and, with his family, ran a family business by the name of Al-Salasa, with corporate headquarters in Dubai, UAE. Al Salasa is a general trading company and business house offering substantial trading opportunities to local, regional, national and international organizations on partnership, consultancy and joint venture basis.

During the time Dr. Diaby spent overseas, he discussed governance in emerging African democracies, particularly in the Ivory Coast, economic development and international trade, and was an ardent advocate for a cessation of fighting in the Sudan. And as founder of the Moustapha Diaby Foundation, he worked tirelessly to raise funds for education and healthcare for children in the Ivory Coast and on the African continent.

Dr. Diaby will be missed not only by members of his family, but by many in the Ivorian community. Dr. Diaby was a great humanitarian, and a role model for business and political leaders throughout the African continent. The Diaby family will remain in my thoughts and prayers.

#### A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY: BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS TO ENTITLEMENT SPENDING

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I have been concerned about the financial future of our country for some time and in 2006 introduced legislation to set up a national commission to review our nation's long-term economy, including mandatory entitlement spending, discretionary spending and tax policy, and recommend a plan to Congress to get America on a sustainable financial path.

During the 110th Congress this bipartisan legislation—the SAFE Commission Act—was reintroduced with Representative JIM COOPER of Tennessee. The bill has over 110 bipartisan cosponsors in the House, and similar legislation was introduced in the Senate by Budget Chairman KENT CONRAD and ranking member JUDD GREGG.

In November I wrote to President-elect Obama asking that he consider the SAFE Commission as a bipartisan way to mandate action on this critical issue. Mr. Obama has indicated his willingness to reach across the aisle to find bipartisan solutions. I have always believed that working together in a bipartisan manner is what the American people expect of their elected leaders. That's why I have asked the president-elect to join the effort Congressman COOPER and I have been pushing. I submit a copy of this letter to the RECORD.

The American people are experiencing a crisis of confidence. The SAFE concept has active support from many who have a deep understanding of economic issues, and could help restore America's confidence and get us on the right track.

Doing nothing is not an option.

The window of opportunity is now. With the mounting short-term federal deficit from the additional spending needed to get our banking system on sound footing, and the growing long-term debt from mandatory spending programs, we have an historic opportunity to address the nation's financial future in a truly bipartisan manner. I am committed to bringing attention to this issue and getting something done.

Not only are we facing a projected \$1 trillion in deficit spending for this fiscal year, there is now \$53 trillion in unfunded mandates through Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, which